

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03719 161216Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, KS
SUBJECT: GOS RECOGNITION ROKG REPORTEDLY SET

REF: KHARTOUM 3643

1. DURING GENERAL REVIEW BILATERAL RELATIONS DEC. 16 WITH MINSTATE FOR SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS DR. BAH AL-DIN IDRIS, HE VOLUNTEERED TO ME THAT GOS RECOGNITION ROKG IS IMMINENT. IDRIS, WHO JUST BACK FROM VISIT TO SEOUL, SAID THAT HIS ROLE HAD BEEN QUIETLY TO LAY FOUNDATION FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH NOW BEING PURSUED THROUGH NORMAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHANNELS. I TOLD HIM THIS SOUNDED MOST ENCOURAGING. SAID WE HAD NOTED REFERENCE TO SOUTH KOREAN "INVESTMENT" IN SUDAN OF \$500 MILLION IN NIMEIRI'S DECEMBER 13 "FACE-THE-NATION" ADDRESS. SMILING KNOWINGLY, IDRIS RESPONDED TOTAL CONTEMPLATED SOUTH KOREAN ACTIVITIES HERE WOULD "ALMOST" REACH THAT FIGURE. HE THEN SAID THAT AGREEMENTS WERE IN PROCESS UNDER WHICH ROKG WOULD: (A) MAKE CERTAIN ADVANCES TO ASSIST MEET CURRENT SUDANESE FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGES; (B) EXTEND OTHER UNSPECIFIED LOANS; (C) PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; AND (D) INVEST IN NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES HERE.

2. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTTEL, NIMEIRI'S SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR MANSOUR KHALID EXPECTED ARRIVE SEOUL SHORTLY, NO DOUBT TO WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS FOREGOING. IDRIS IS IN-VETERATE ENTHUSIAST, HOWEVER, AND WE DO NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPT
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HIS INDICATION THAT SUCH SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF FUNDS WILL

BE MADE AVAILABLE BY ROKG ON GRANT OR HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL BASIS. IT DOES APPEAR THAT CONSIDERABLE SOUTH KOREAN INVESTMENT AND OTHER ASSISTANCE MAY BE EXPECTED HERE ON HEELS ESTABLISHMENT GOS/ROKG RELATIONS. WHILE STEP UNLIKELY BE HAILED BY SOME OF SUDAN'S THIRD WORLD ASSOCIATES, GOS NO DBOUT PLANNING TO POINT TO CONTINUANCE DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER TIES WITH NORTH KOREA AS EVIDENCE BALANCE. MOREOVER, THIS COUNTRY'S CLAMANT FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOS AS OVER-RIDING, TOGETHER WITH DESIRE PROPITIATE SAG WHICH HAS MID-WIVED DEVELOPING GOS/ROKG CONTACTS.

BREWER

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